



PRESS RELEASE

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FEDERAL GRAND JURY INDICTS 17 ON DRUG CHARGES IN ROCK COUNTY INVESTIGATION

Madison, Wisconsin -- A federal grand jury in the Western District of Wisconsin, sitting in Madison, has returned 11 indictments charging 17 men with drug distribution in Rock County. The indictments, which charge distribution of crack cocaine, powder cocaine, and heroin, were announced at a press conference held in Beloit today by United States Attorney Stephen P. Sinnott; Special Agent in Charge James Finch of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; Beloit Police Chief Sam Lathrop; Assistant Special Agent in Charge Guy Thomas of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Assistant Special Agent in Charge James Bohn of the Drug Enforcement Administration; Wisconsin Attorney General Peggy A. Lautenschlager; Chief Deputy Robert Spoden of the Rock County Sheriff's Department; Captain Glenn Leonard of the Illinois State Police/Stateline Area Narcotics Team; and the Office of Rock County District Attorney David O'Leary.

The grand jury returned the sealed indictments yesterday. Teams of local, state,

and federal law enforcement agents arrested 15 defendants this morning. Two of the defendants – Johnny Newman and Tyreese R. Taylor – were already in state custody in Rock County on unrelated charges.

Agents also executed forfeiture seizure warrants and took custody of six vehicles, including SUVs and other cars.

United States Attorney Sinnott stated, “Over the course of the last year, federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies have joined forces here in Rock County in a coordinated and collaborative effort to reduce gang activity. These indictments are the first fruits of this ongoing work. We are not finished. The agencies participating in this investigation will continue to work together to remove drug dealers and violent offenders from Rock County.”

The individuals who have been charged in the indictments – all of whom are residents of Beloit, except for Kenneth A. Spence, who is a resident of Rockford – are:

Theodore M. Cavett, aka Teardrop, DOB 1/28/71 and Johnny Newman, aka JDub, DOB 8/27/81, are charged with various drug offenses. The indictment alleges that on January 6, 2006, the defendants distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine. The indictment further alleges that on January 10, 2006, Newman distributed 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, that on January 19, 2006, Cavett distributed 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, and that on March 23, 2006, Cavett distributed 50 grams or more of crack cocaine.

Jimmy Thomas, aka Mookie, aka Mook, DOB 5/15/80, is charged with two counts of distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on July 29, 2005 and August 4, 2005.

Bobby Webster, DOB 2/25/79, is charged with two counts of distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on October 17, 2005 and November 4, 2005.

Derrick L. Garrett, DOB 3/5/79, is charged with one count of distributing crack cocaine on February 17, 2006, and one count of distributing 50 grams or more of crack cocaine, on March 7, 2006.

George E. Taylor, aka Platinum, DOB 9/29/83, Tyreese R. Taylor, aka Trigger, DOB 11/9/82, and Michael J. Billups, aka Mike Jones, DOB 7/19/84, are charged with various drug offenses. The indictment alleges that George E. Taylor distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on December 9, 2005, 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on March 23, 2006, and five grams or more of crack cocaine on April 4, 2006. The indictment further alleges that Tyreese R. Taylor distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on January 26, 2006, distributed crack cocaine on February 17, 2006, distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on March 2, 2006, 50 grams or more of crack cocaine on March 23, 2006, and five grams or more of crack cocaine on May 1, 2006. Finally, the indictment alleges that Billups distributed crack cocaine on February 17, 2006, five grams or more of crack cocaine on April 4, 2006, and five grams or more of crack cocaine on May 3, 2006.

Collins Brumfield, DOB 10/18/83, is charged with three counts of distribution of crack cocaine. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on July 29, 2005, August 3, 2006, and August 4, 2005, and that on July 29, 2005 and August 4, 2005, the amount that was distributed was five grams or more.

Rico Yarbrough, DOB 5/14/80, is charged with two counts of distribution of crack cocaine. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on March 23, 2006 and May 2, 2006, and that on May 2, 2006, the amount distributed was five grams or more.

Andrew Henderson, DOB 5/18/83, is charged with one count of distributing heroin. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on March 17, 2006.

Concepcion Relerford, aka Coco or Cokes, DOB 12/31/72, and Jabali Rucker, aka Boli, DOB 11/23/73, are charged with distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine on December 9, 2005. The indictment also alleges that Rucker possessed with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine on March 11, 2005, and that Relerford possessed with intent to distribute crack cocaine on March 28, 2006.

Deollo Gordon, DOB 5/12/75, is charged with two counts of distributing five grams or more of crack cocaine. The indictment alleges that the distribution occurred on March 2, 2006 and March 17, 2006.

Cheoncello Grady, DOB 3/22/82, Tyler J. Wohlust, DOB 5/26/87, and Kenneth

A. Spence, DOB 6/14/63, are charged in a six-count indictment with various drug offenses. The indictment alleges that Grady distributed crack cocaine on August 9, 2005, that he distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on September 1, 2005, and that on September 20, 2005, he possessed with intent to distribute cocaine. The indictment also alleges that Wohlst distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on September 9, 2005. The indictment further alleges that Spence possessed with intent to distribute cocaine on September 20, 2005 and that he distributed five grams or more of crack cocaine on July 12, 2005 and August 23, 2005.

If convicted, those defendants charged with distribution of cocaine or heroin, and possession with intent to distribute cocaine, face a maximum penalty of 20 years in federal prison. Those defendants charged with distribution of five grams or more of crack cocaine, or with possession with intent to distribute five grams or more of crack cocaine, face a mandatory minimum penalty of five years and a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison. Those defendants charged with distribution of 50 grams or more of crack cocaine face a mandatory minimum penalty of 10 years and a maximum penalty of life in prison.

The prosecution of these cases has been assigned to Assistant U. S. Attorneys Elizabeth Altman, Jeffrey M. Anderson, Robert A. Anderson, Paul W. Connell, Meredith P. JDuchemin, David J. Reinhard, and Rita M. Rumbelow. In addition to the agencies listed above, the following police departments provided officers and/or canine units to assist in the arrests: the Janesville, Evansville, Clinton, Madison, Town of Madison, and Sun Prairie Police Departments.

You are advised that a charge is merely an accusation and that a defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

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